THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Air India does not pay compensation to passengers offloaded on any flights. However, such passengers are provided with hotel accommodation, transportation, international telephone call and all meals and are confirmed on the next flight.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some foreign airlines pay compensation. However, many airlines do not pay compensation because passengers are not penalised in many way for not travelling on the booked flight or for last-minute cancellations, resulting in heavy no-shows ex-India. Consequently, airlines overbook their flights sufficiently so that they do not operate underload. Since there is no national law on this subject, the denied boarding compensation is governed by the airlines own policy and regulations.

(e) Most airlines in India are following the policy of providing to the offloaded passengers hotel accommodation, transportation, international telephone call, all meals and the next flight to their destinations.

Fall in passenger load in National Carrier

4955. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger load have fallen in national air carrier because of competition from Jet and Sahara airways; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to come out of such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Domestic passengers carried by Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines in the year 2000 and 2001 are as follows:

Year	Domestic Passengers Carried (In Lakhs)		
	Indian Airlines	Jet Airways	Sahara Airlines
2000	62.87	58.13	8.15
2001	60.69	57.19	6.04

Passenger traffic of Indian Airlines and other operators has decreased due to reduction in overall traffic, especially after the events of 11 th September.

World class Airports in Metropolitan Cities

4956. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade international airports in metropolitan cities to the standards of world class airports;